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RE SUCCESSFUL INTERCEPT OF CUBAN COMMS

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SENSITIVE~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR
THRU: DDO, V_{GR}
FROM : G

Serial: G/143-78
DATE: 5 April 1978

SUBJECT: House Assassinations Committee Query

1. Attached is our proposed response to the queries passed to us from the House Assassinations Committee. The information requested was supposed to be for the period 1959 - 31 December 1974. However, our first successful interception of Cuban agent communications was on 17 April 1962. We continued to intercept the communications through the end of the period, but a communications change on 31 May 1964 rendered the messages unreadable.

2. The source products from which we extracted the attached information were published in the Category III TRIG and DENT, US/UK EYES ONLY series. We believe we have done sufficient sanitization so that, when the association with NSA is removed, the text could be releasable as national

TOP SECRET, Sensitive.


R. E. RICH

Chief, G

Re provide two inwards
Mr. Lester
Dr
X

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~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

~~SENSITIVE~~CUBAN AGENT ACTIVITY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE 1959-31 DECEMBER 1974

Cuba used agents for intelligence and subversion in North, Central, and South America; Africa; and Asia. Whenever possible, they operated under diplomatic cover, getting instructions and communicating through Cuban missions.

In the Western Hemisphere during the early sixties, diplomatic cover became less available to the Cubans, and by spring of 1962, Cuba had diplomatic relations with only one-third of the Latin American countries. Cuba's interest in fomenting discord and promoting revolution obviously grew as she became more isolated officially from the rest of the hemisphere, and the Cuban General Directorate of Intelligence (DGI) inevitably increased its reliance on illegal/clandestine agents. By the time of the Cuban "missile crisis" in October 1962, Cuba was known to be in communication with agents in Florida, Puerto Rico, Central America, and Ecuador, all areas in which diplomatic cover was not available. The DGI expanded its clandestine contacts as more Western Hemisphere countries severed diplomatic relations. By the end of 1964, Cuba enjoyed formal relations in the hemisphere with only Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, and the United Nations in New York. The DGI maintained contact with its agents by all the routine undercover means (e.g., personal contact, prearranged signaling, secret writing, hidden meanings in innocuous appearing mail and telegrams, microdots, radio, and clandestine mail drops).

In 1962, the DGI was in direct or indirect contact with at least 35 covernames/covernumbers/pseudonyms believed to represent separate agents; in 1963 this number grew to 49 and in 1964 the number was back to 24. Agent locations for the period were New York, Miami, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, La Paz, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile, Ottawa, Lima and possibly the Dominican Republic.

During the period for which we have information (1962-1964), Cuban agents were tasked with performing a wide range and variety of tasks. With the exceptions of a task levied in 1962, possibly in Ecuador, for the sabotage of any U.S. property and attacks and raids on the U. S. Embassy, and a plan in Puerto Rico for the assassinations of ANTONIO VECIANA, Puerto Rican spokesman for ALPHA 66, and GERONIMO ESTEVEZ, a Cuban exile in Puerto Rico, all information on DGI-associated activities fell into the categories of recruiting, gathering information and reporting, spreading propaganda, and pure logistics.

Agents in Miami, Costa Rica, and Guatemala were to establish and maintain contacts with Cuban exiles and report on any counter-revolutionary activities. The DGI directed that agents procure and send to Cuba maps of their respective countries and guides to major cities. All agents were furnished secure mail drop addresses in Havana and intermediate cities outside of Cuba through which they could submit reports, either in cable form or by secret writing using invisible

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SENSITIVE

inks on innocent appearing letters.

A primary target for penetration was ALPHA 66, a Florida-based exile organization reputed to have near-legendary powers and resources. The Cuban government still claims U.S. government direction and funding of the organization whose claimed activities included night raids along the Cuban coast, infiltration of agents into Cuba, harassment of the Cuban armed forces, and weapons drops to counter-revolutionary groups on the island.

Agents in Costa Rica and Puerto Rico were to collect order-of-battle information on U.S. forces, vessels and aircraft in Panama and Puerto Rico, to establish activity norms and report any significant deviations from the norm. Agent AMAPOLA in Miami was charged with reporting on alert status of U.S. forces at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning and Homestead Air Force Base. The field agents were to either personally collect the information or cultivate and subvert individuals who had access to it.

Where possible, agents attempted to work with or through Communist parties in their countries. The Costa Rican Communist Party was used by the Cuban agent there as an information collection organization, but Agent BRUNO in La Paz encountered problems in dealing with the Bolivian Communist Party. Agent PAMELA in Puerto Rico cultivated and encouraged the activities of JUAN ANGEL SILEN ACEVEDO, Assistant Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Independent Party.

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EX-3

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EX-3

ANY MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY OR ANY INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION.

We have reviewed the Cuban materials previously compiled to respond to SSCI and Church Committee hearings. The only information regarding the KENNEDY assassination which surfaced might be termed reactive; that is, it reflects some of the reactions of the Cuban government to the assassination. Army and Navy elements in Eastern Cuba were placed on alert status on 22 November, apparently in reaction to news of the President's death. This action was probably a reflection of the Cuban government's paranoia over a possible military action against Cuba, possibly originating from the U. S. Navy Base at Guantanamo. That the Cubans were sensitive to suggestions that they might be implicated in the KENNEDY assassination is very evident in the following 25 November press release from the Cuban Foreign Ministry:

"With relation to the information published today ((25 November)) in the newspaper EXCELSIOR in Mexico City, affirming that LEE HARVEY OSWALD had requested a transit visa for travel to the Soviet Union at the Cuban Consulate in Mexico in September, the Cuban Government requested information from the officials of our Consulate in that city confirming that it is certain that Mr. LEE HARVEY OSWALD requested the transit visa for travel to the Soviet Union on 27 September in the said consulate.

"On being informed by the consular officials that their office could not grant such a visa without the authorization of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, which likewise would not grant it if it was not previously authorized by the country of destination, Mr. Oswald left the Consulate visibly disgusted.

"The said visa was never granted.

"This detail, in connection with the other circumstances that surrounds the facts, confirm our suspicion that the assassination of KENNEDY was a provocation against world peace, perfectly and thoroughly planned by the most reactionary sectors of the United States.

"It is evident that these sectors planned beforehand to involve Cuba and the Soviet Union in these deeds.

"The inconceivable and inexplicable impunity with which an individual of known penal antecedents assassinated OSWALD, the principal accused of the assassination of President KENNEDY, in the presence of the police themselves and in the basement of a prison, demonstrates in a scandalous and indisputable manner that the powerful reactionary political forces within the United States are making use of all their resources and influences in order to conceal those who master-minded KENNEDY's assassination, and the true motives for it.

"World public opinion demands the enlightening of the deeds. It is absurd that the political authorities and the prosecuting attorney of Dallas have declared that the case is closed when hardly 48 hours have passed since a deed of so great a result as the assassination of the President of the United States."

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